

135 W. 4th St.,

May 4, 1887.

My Dear May,

Yours of yesterday, enclosing Howland's of the 1st.

inst., at hand. I venture a suggestion, viz: that you might begin the receding, passing it over to Howland at the point where you think your strength cannot ^{safely} be drawn upon any farther; being careful ^{of course} to keep ^{well} within the line of prudence.

Please consider this. How I wish I could look upon the scene from behind a curtain! I do not look for a numerous audience, my name having no drawing power in Worcester, and

the subject being far away from
the popular thought. Thayer
may perhaps rally his partisans,
if he has any, for the occasion,
in the hope of finding an open-
ing for a reply. But of course
he has no claim to a hearing
on the occasion, and it would
be an impertinence for him
to interfere. Whether or not
he has local popularity and
influence enough to make a
diversion I am unable to say.
We shall see what we shall
see.

I shall await the echoes
of the affair with a curious
interest. I wonder if the news-
papers will "pitch in"!

Yes, I was sole editor of
the "¹¹Christian Soldier" from Jan 1st,

1831 (when I was just 21 years old),
to the Spring of 1833, when I sold
it to Henry K. Stockton, to take
charge of the Liberator while
Garrison went to England. At
the beginning of 1832 I went to
the old Merchants' Hall, to a
room adjoining that of the
Liberator, and from that time
onward worked off the Soldier
on the Liberator press.

Mrs. Johnson and our
dear Helen send you kindest
remembrances.

Yours, faithfully,

Oliver Johnson.

ms. B. 1, 6 v. II, p. 87